

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original). Device for closing an opening, of the type comprising a frame (4) that delimits a pass-through access opening (10) suitable for receiving a cover (6) and which includes a frame hinge knuckle (18), the frame hinge knuckle (18) having a hinge surface (38) and a pass-through hinge knuckle opening (40), the frame (4) having an outer side and an inner side, characterized in that the device also comprises an inserted plug (52) positioned in a recess (50) of the frame hinge knuckle (18) located on the inner side of the hinge surface (38) and which makes the inner side of the frame hinge knuckle (18) appreciably sealed off from the outside.

Claim 2 (original). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the plug (52) is made from an elastically deformable material, particularly of one single piece, and especially of elastomer.

Claim 3 (currently amended). Device according to claim 1-~~or~~2, characterized in that the plug (52) comprises an exterior side, turned toward the hinge surface (38) and means of evacuating (62) dirt (70) accumulated on the outer side of the plug (52).

Claim 4 (currently amended). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the means of evacuating dirt comprise at least one elastically deformable element (68) that is movable between a blocking position in which it blocks the recess (50) and retains the accumulated dirt on the outer side of the plug (52), and a pass-through position in which it opens the recess (50) and allows the dirt to be evacuated from the outer side toward the inner side of the frame through the hinge knuckle opening (40).

Claim 5 (currently amended). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the frame (4) extends along a frame plane (C-C) and the movable element comprises at least a movable sealing lip (68) bending around an axis (Y-Y, Z-Z) positioned parallel to the frame plane (C-C).

Claim 6 (currently amended). Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 7 (currently amended). Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

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Claim 8 (currently amended). Device according to claim 4 ~~or any of the dependent claims of claim 4 and claim 7 taken together~~, characterized in that the cover knuckle (20) is suitable for taking the movable element (68) to its pass-through position when the cover (6) is taken to its open position and when the amount of dirt has exceeded a predetermined threshold (d).

Claim 9 (currently amended). Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 10 (new). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the plug (52) comprises an exterior side, turned toward the hinge surface (38) and means of evacuating (62) dirt (70) accumulated on the outer side of the plug (52).

Claim 11 (new). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 12 (new). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

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Claim 13 (new). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 14 (new). Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 15 (new). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

Claim 16 (new). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

Claim 16 (new). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved

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between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

Claim 16 (new). Device according to claim 5, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

Claim 17 (new). Device according to claim 6, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

Claim 18 (new). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 19 (new). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 20 (new). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

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Claim 21 (new). Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 22 (new). Device according to claim 6, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 23 (new). Device according to claim 7, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 24 (new). Device according to claim 8, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).